

SENATE RESOLUTION 117

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former Georgia State  
Senator Hildred W. Shumake, Jr. of Atlanta,  
Georgia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Senator Hildred W. Shumake, Jr., who enjoyed a successful career in business and politics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake, a native of Nashville, displayed his unbridled desire to serve his community at an early age, taking upon himself the responsibility of single-handedly organizing the National Youth Council as a ninth grader at Peabody Demonstration School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake, a graduate of Cohn High School, attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Hildred W. Shumake, Jr. excelled in his studies and in extracurricular activities, holding numerous positions, including meritorious service as President of the Student Body. Mr. Shumake graduated from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Hildred W. Shumake, Jr. served with acumen and alacrity as a Georgia State Senator and a highly successful businessman, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers, his constituents, and his clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedication to the greater good; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake entered politics upon the encouragement and inspiration of our colleague, the late Senator Avon N. Williams, Jr. of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1987, becoming the youngest elected black state senator in the nation; he represented the people of Fulton County, Georgia with diligence and integrity for three terms until 1992; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate of education, Mr. Shumake worked assiduously to ensure that all Georgians would have the opportunity to pursue higher education. He endorsed educational reforms to make post-secondary education free for those wanting to attend state colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake was also an integral part of many governmental efforts to eliminate drug abuse in Georgia, frequently speaking out on the dangers of drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake was extremely successful in the realm of business, owning Shumake Sausage, a company that sells sausage to over 4,000 grocery stores in 14 states; and

WHEREAS, Hildred Shumake, Jr. was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Hildred Shumake, Jr. was the proud and loving father of one daughter, Sarah Shumake; and is also survived by his mother, Mai Olive Lusk of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shumake leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Mr. Hildred W. Shumake, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his exemplary career in public service as a Georgia State Senator and beyond, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Hildred W. Shumake, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.